

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
AID-05 IO-13 EUR-12 /093 W
-----008300 072224Z /66

R 071926Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSU GEORGETOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6333
INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: GY, TEPR
SUBJECT: PARLIAMENTARY SPEECH OF GUYANA'S FOREIGN MINISTER JACKSON

BEGIN SUMMARY: GUYANA'S FOREIGN MINISTER RASHLEIGH JACKSON
DELIVERED HIS MAIDEN SPEECH TO GUYANA'S NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ON MARCH 3 IN CONNECTION WITH THE GENERAL DEBATE ON THE 1978
BUDGET. HIS MESSAGES--APPARENTLY AIMED PRIMARILY AT AN
EXTERNAL AUDIENCE--WERE CLEARLY CONTINUITY, COMMITMENT TO
NON-ALIGNMENT BUT WITH TILT IN FAVOR OF AID DONORS AND MAJOR
TRADING PARTNERS. A SIGNIFICANT PART OF THE SPEECH WAS DE-
VOTED TO GUYANA'S NON-ALIGNMENT, AS THE POLICY, HE SAID, HAD
BEEN WIDELY MISUNDERSTOOD. NON-ALIGNMENT WAS NOT A RIGID
DOCTRINE BUT RATHER A STRATEGY FOR WEAK COUNTRIES TO USE
TO ASSURE THEIR SECURITY, RESIST PRESSURES FROM OUTSIDE POWERS,
I.E., "COLLECTIVE SELF-RELIANCE". JACKSON RAFFIRMED
GUYANA'S COMMITMENT TO CARIBBEAN INTEGRATION AND
DESCRIBED PRIME MINISTER BURNHAM'S JANUARY 1 STATEMENT
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AS CONTAINING PROPOSALS WHICH COULD INJECT NEW
DYNAMISM INTO THE MOVEMENT AND STRENGTHEN COOPERATION.
JACKSON'S SPEECH, EVEN THE REAFFIRMATION AND DEFINITION
OF NON-ALIGNMENT, APPEAR TO SIGNAL MODERATION IN GUYANA'S
CONDUCT OF FOREIGN POLICY. CERTAINLY THE SIGNAL THAT
GUYANA WOULD BE DRAWN CLOSER TO MAJOR AID DONORS AND
TRADING PARTNERS UNDELINE THE PRAGMATISM IN GUYANA'S

APPROACH TO THE EXTERNAL WORLD. END SUMMARY.

1. FOREIGN MINISTER JACKSON'S FIRST SPEECH TO GUYANA'S NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ON MARCH 3 WAS MADE IN CONNECTION WITH THE GENERAL DEBATE ON THE BUDGET. ITS TITLE WAS "FOREIGN POLICY IN RELATION TO NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT". IT WAS CLEARLY AIMED AT SIGNALLING THAT NO ABRUPT CHANGE IN GOG FOREIGN POLICY HAD OCCURRED WITH THE DEPARTURE OF FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER FRED WILLS. THE MESSAGE DID NOT EXPLICITLY REFER TO RELATIONS WITH EITHER THE SOVIET UNION OR THE US. FULL TEXT OF THE 19 PAGE SPEECH HAS BEEN POUCHED TO ARA/CAR. SOME OF HIS COMMENTS ON TOPICS OF INTEREST FOLLOW:

2. THRUST OF GUYANA'S FOREIGN POLICY: GUYANA'S FOREIGN POLICY WAS DESIGNED TO ASSIST IN ACHIEVING THE SECURITY OF THE STATE, STABILITY AND EXPANSION OF EXPORT MARKETS, AND "CONSOLIDATION AND ACCELERATION OF THE PROCESS OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT." HE EMPHASIZED THAT FOREIGN POLICY SHOULD SUPPORT A PROGRAM OF RAPID ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BY MAINTAINING AND EXPANDING GUYANA'S EXPORT MARKETS AND ENLISING THE COOPERATION AND SUPPORT OF OTHER STATES IN THOSE AREAS OF THE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM WHERE GUYANA'S SELF-RELIANT EFFORT PROVES INSUFFICIENT. HE PLEDGED CONTINUITY IN GUYANA'S EFFORTS TO WORK IN MULTILATERAL FORA TO ESTABLISH AN INTERNATIONAL ORDER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SUPPORTIVE OF GUYANA'S INTEREST AS A DEVELOPING NATION.

3. DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATION: GUYANA'S NEW EMBASSY IN MOSCOW WOULD BE OPENED SHORTLY. OTHERWISE, NO NEW EMBASSIES WOULD BE OPENED THIS YEAR. HOWEVER, GUYANA'S BILATERAL, DIPLOMATIC AND POLITICAL CONTACTS WOULD BE EXPANDED BY USING NON-RESIDENT ACCREDITATION. JACKSON RECOGNIZED EXPLICITLY THE FINANCIAL CONSTRAINTS ON GUYANA'S DIPLOMACY.

4. SELF-RELIANCE AND NON-ALIGNMENT: THE FUNDAMENTAL BASIS OF GUYANA'S STRATEGY FOR DEVELOPMENT WAS NATIONAL SELF-RELIANCE. WITHIN THIS CONTEXT THE GOG HAD EMBRACED NON-ALIGNMENT AS A BASIC TENET OF ITS FOREIGN POLICY. NON-ALIGNMENT WOULD MAINTAIN AND STRENGTHEN GUYANA'S INDEPENDENCE THROUGH JOINT ACTION AND COLLECTIVE SELF-RELIANCE. HE DEFINED NON-ALIGNMENT AS A PHILOSOPHY OF SELF-RELIANCE IN INTERNATIONAL POLITICS.

5. HE SIGNALLED, HOWEVER, THE POSSIBILITY OF A TILT IN GUYANA'S NON-ALIGNMENT WITH THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT: "THERE IS, FOR EXAMPLE, IN SOME QUARTERS THE ILL-INFORMED

BELIEF THAT A FOREIGN POLICY OF NON-ALIGNMENT REQUIRES THE MAINTENANCE OF AN EQUAL DISTANCE BETWEEN POLES OF POWER. CDE. SPEAKER, SUCH MISTAKEN JUDGMENTS BRING TO MIND THE WELL-KNOWN FABLE--THOUGH NOT FULLY ANALAGOUS--OF THE ASS OF APULIEUS, WHO WHILE STANDING MIDWAY BETWEEN TWO BUNDLES OF HAY PERISHED FROM HUNGER BECAUSE IT WAS UNABLE TO MAKE UP ITS MIND IN WHICH DIRECTION TO MOVE SO AS TO SATIATE ITS HUNGER."

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6. HE CALLED UPON THE NON-ALIGNED TO REMAIN VIGILANT TO INSURE THAT ITS SOLIDARITY IS NOT WEAKENED OR THAT ITS OBJECTIVITY WERE NOT SUBORNED. IT MUST GUARD LEST HOSTILE FORCES PROMOTING INTERESTS ALIEN TO THE MOVEMENT MAKE USE OF CONFLICTS AND EXPLOIT INTERNAL DIVISIONS. CONCLUDING HIS DISSERTATION ON NON-ALIGNMENT, JACKSON TOLD THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY THAT HE HAD DEVOTED SO MUCH TIME TO THAT SUBJECT BECAUSE THE GOG'S "NON-ALIGNED APPROACH TO FOREIGN POLICY IS MISUNDERSTOOD OR MIS-INTERPRETED OR DELIBERATELY MISREPRESENTED EVEN FROM WITHIN BY CONCERNS NOT ROOTED IN OUR NATIONAL INTERESTS."

7. CARIBBEAN UNITY: THE PRESERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY WAS TO BE FOREMOST AMONG GUYANA'S REGIONAL CONCERNS. HE STATED THAT A NUMBER OF

FACTORS, INCLUDING EXTERNAL INFLATION, THREATENED TO ERODE THE INTEGRATION OF THE CARIBBEAN REGION AND STULTIFY ITS GROWTH. HE CITED PRIME MINISTER BURNHAM'S STATEMENT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF JANUARY 1 ON REGIONAL INTEGRATION AS CONTAINING FLEXIBLE PROPOSALS WHICH, IF APPROACHED WITH A SENSE OF PURPOSE COULD INFECT A NEW DYNAMISM INTO THE MOVEMENT AND REVIVE AND STRENGTHEN HABITS OF CONSULTATION AND PATTERNS OF COOPERATION. HE ADDED THAT GUYANA WAS COMMITTED TO PURSUE THE PRIME MINISTER'S PROPOSALS RESOLUTELY.

8. BELIZE: GUYANA, ALONG WITH OTHER CARIBBEAN STATES, HAD STRONGLY EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER THE EXERCISE OF ANY PRESSURE ON BELIZE TO CEDE TERRITORY AS A BASIS FOR A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT OF THE ANGLO/Guatemalan CONTROVERSY. THE PEOPLE OF BELIZE THROUGH THE PROCESSES OF HISTORY HAD BECOME A DISTINCT COMMUNITY LIVING IN A TERRITORY WHICH IS THEIRS BY BIRTHRIGHT; THEREFORE, " WE CANNOT COUNTENANCE ANY STEP WHICH WOULD DIMINISH THE INTEGRITY OF THIS COMMUNITY AND ITS TERRITORY. WE WILL CONTINUE TO GIVE OUR UNSTINTED SUPPORT TO THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PEOPLE OF BELIZE IN THEIR DETERMINATION TO ACHIEVE AN EARLY AND SECURE INDEPENDENCE WITH FULL AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY."

9. SOUTH AMERICAN NEIGHBORS: A CARDINAL GOAL OF GUYANESE FOREIGN POLICY HAD BEEN AND CONTINUED TO BE THE DEVELOPMENT OF RELATIONS OF COOPERATION AND AMITY BASED ON MUTUAL RESPECT WITH GUYANA'S IMMEDIATE NEIGHBORS SURINAM, BRAZIL AND VENEZUELA. GUYANA WOULD PURSUE BILATERAL AND REGIONAL COOPERATION BETWEEN THE STATES OF LATIN AMERICA.

10. FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES. THE POLICIES OF THE GOG ON ALL ISSUES WERE GUIDED BY CERTAIN FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES: SELF-DETERMINATION, INDEPENDENCE FROM COLONIAL EXPLOITATION, NON-ACQUISITION OF TERRITORY BY FORCE, NON-INTERFERENCE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF STATE AND SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES BY PEACEFUL MEANS.

11. THE ECONOMY AND FOREIGN POLICY: HE POINTED OUT THAT INDUSTRIALIZED STATES -- THOSE WITH CENTRALLY PLANNED AS WELL AS THOSE WITH MARKET ECONOMIES -- WERE

EXPERIENCING ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES AND THE NON-OIL PRODUCING DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, SUCH AS GUYANA, WERE EXPERIENCING SERIOUS PROBLEMS. ZAMBIA AND CUBA, WITH DIFFERENT KINDS OF ECONOMIES, WERE BY NECESSITY IMPOSING ECONOMIC AUSTERITY ON THEIR POPULATIONS. CASTRO HAD RECENTLY TOLD HIS PEOPLE THEY WOULD HAVE TO WAIT SEVEN OR EIGHT YEARS BEFORE INCREASING THEIR CONSUMPTION. IN THE MEANTIME, ALL EFFORTS WOULD HAVE TO DEVELOP THE ECONOMY. THIS, JACKSON SAID, WAS EVIDENCE THAT GUYANA WAS NOT ALONE IN ITS DIFFICULTIES.

12. COMMENT: BY REAFFIRMING NON-ALIGNMENT AND CONTINUITY IN GUYANA'S FOREIGN POLICY, JACKSON APPEARED TO BE CONSTRUCTION A DEFENSE AGAINST THE ALLEGATIONS OF THE OPPOSITION THAT THE GOG HAS SUCCUMBED TO IMPERIALIST PRESSURES. BY POINTING OUT THAT ALL COUNTRIES, INCLUDING CUBA AND CENTRALLY PLANNED ECONOMIES, ARE SUFFERING FROM ECONOMIC TROUBLES, HE WAS COUNTERING THE PPP'S CHARGES THAT "BOURGEOIS" POLICIES AND MISMANAGEMENT BROUGHT GUYANA TO ITS PRESENT ECONOMIC CRISIS. FINALLY, HIS ANALOGY ABOUT THE ASS BETWEEN TWO PILES OF HAY APPEARED DESIGNED TO JUSTIFY THE GOG'S SEARCH FOR ASSISTANCE FROM WESTERN SOURCES. WE INTERPRET HIS MESSAGE AS INDICATING THAT GUYANA INTENDS TO ADHERE TO ECONOMIC AND FISCAL POLICIES WHICH WILL QUALIFY IT FOR AID FROM THE IMF AND OTHER WESTERN DONOR NATIONS. JACKSON'S SPEECH, ONCE AGAIN, HIGHLIGHTS THE TREND IN GOG POLICIES TOWARD PRAGMATISM.

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